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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

The Netherlands

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DATE DISTR. 1 JUNE 1949

SUBJECT

CPN Manipulation of the EVC Central Committee

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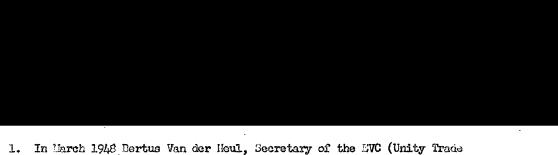
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- 1. In March 1948 Bertus Van der Heul, Secretary of the EVC (Unity Trade Union Central) Central Committee and a member of the CPN, was relieved of his EVC position. Ostensibly this indicated EVC disapproval of Van der Heul's statement that all EVC officials who were not Party members would have to be replaced. However, through the influence of EVC President Berend Blokzijl* and the CPN Central Committee, Van der Heul remained on the EVC Central and Executive Committees.
- 2. The appointment of Hendrikus Hennink, who had been Deputy President of the EVC Central Committee and chief editor of the EVC publication, Werkend Nederland (Working Netherlands), to Van der Heul's position is further evidence of CPN demination of the EVC. Hennink, although not a member of the CPN, has had close contact with the CPN Executive Committee and has actively repressed non-communist elements in the EVC. Through the efforts of Blokzijl, Hennink was later relieved of all his EVC functions. According to source, this was a result of personal rivalry between Blokzijl and Hennink.
- 3. According to source, Hennink's probable successor will be Bertus Brandsen, chairman of the EVC in Amsterdam and one of the EVC delegates to the 10th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions held in Moscow in April 1949. Brandsen had been a member of the CPN Political Control Commission for Amsterdam and is backed by the CPN.
- 4. Communist members of the EVC are conducting a cautious campaign to undermine the influence of Dirk Kleinsma, President of the ABT (General Union of Transport Workers) and the only EVC Central Committee member who does not belong to the CPN. Kleinsma is very influential in the EVC because of his position in the ABT. However, as CPN machinations in the EVC have become more evident, he has been forced into the opposition. Rumors of friction between the Central Committees of the EVC and the ABT, however, have been denied in a statement issued officially by Blokzijl and Kleinsma. According to source, if the EVC removed Kleinsma, he would join the OVB (Independent Factory Workers' Organization), which grew out of the opposition group in the EVC, thereby giving the OVB a foothold in Amsterdam and considerably weakening the EVC.

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5. Maurits Boshart is mentioned by source as the next president of the ABT in the event that the communist campaign to oust Kleinsma is successful. Boshart, a chairman of the EVC in Rotterdam, was one of the EVC delegates to the recent Soviet Trade Unions Congress in Moscow. Although not a militant Communist, Boshart has considerable communist backing in the EVC.

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